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No. 11, 197

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三四十月一十年九月光

ESTABLISHED 1857.

HONGKONG, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 21st, 1893.

四周年  
第十二月二十號

PRICE \$2 PER MONTH

S H I P P I N G .

A R R I V A L S .

Dec. 19. Bucardo, British str. 876. R. A. E.

Burman, Hainan Bay 15th December.

Telegraph Cable.—E. E. A. & C. Tele-

graph Co.

Dec. 19. BENIARD, British str. 1454. E. I.

Bonelli, Singapore 10th Dec. General.

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The Hongkong Dispensary.

Established A.D. 1841.

Hongkong, 2nd November, 1893.

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.—  
One communication relative to the news columns should be addressed to "The Editor." Correspondents are requested to forward their name and address with communications addressed to the Editor, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith.

All letters to the correspondence should be written on one side of the paper.

No anonymous or signed communications that have appeared in other papers will be forwarded.

Orders for extra copies of the Daily Press should be addressed to the printer, a day before publication. After that hour the supply is limited. Only supplied for cash.

Telegraphic Address: Press, P.O. Box 20.

Telephone No. 12.

DEATH.

At the General Hospital, Shanghai, on the 18th December, 1893, EMPEROR COO, aged 35 years.

The Daily Press.

HONGKONG, DECEMBER 21st, 1893.

THE antagonism to Chinese immigration into Australasia has for some years been very marked, and one after another of the Australian colonies have passed laws to restrict the influx of Chinese. The New Zealand Legislative Assembly even followed suit, under pressure by the urban democracy, and passed a stringent Restriction Bill, but this was afterwards modified by the Council before passing into law. Now we find Western Australia, soon after receiving the right of self-government, making use of her newly acquired powers to try and exclude the Chinese from settlement in the vast domains included in that Colony. Mr. JOHN PEASEY, Premier of Western Australia, has just announced, in a despatch to the Straits Government, an alteration of the law to the effect that in future only one Chinaman for every five hundred tons of the registered tonnage of the ship will be allowed to land there. This is as close a measure of restriction as any passed by Queensland or New South Wales, and will effectively limit the immigration of Chinese into the great lone land of Western Australia. On the face of it this seems a rather dog-in-the-manger policy. A very large proportion of Western Australia is situated within the tropics and has a climate in which the Caucasians cannot perform outdoor labour and thrive. Considering that the present population is under fifty thousand while the area of the Colony is almost equal to that of British India, it seems an act of folly to exclude an industrious race who could do so much to develop its resources. These resources are at present very imperfectly known. The southern part of the Colony contains extensive tracts of land suitable for peasant farmers, and it may also become a great wine-growing district, but the existence there of a poisonous plant will serve to limit the use of that section of the country for pastoral purposes. There are magnificent forests of most valuable timber, and though the mineral resources of the colony have been inadequately explored gold has been discovered and the mines may yet prove as rich as those of the sister colonies. Exceptionally large nuggets have indeed just been found. The fisheries on the coast are also important, to say nothing of the turtle found there. The North-west portion of this territory is, however, admittedly very dry, and is swept by squalls and hurricanes of such a character as to render planting a rather precarious enterprise. Nevertheless it is not to be supposed that the whole of the area

the northern district is useless for cultivation. There must be large tracts capable of yielding fine crops of sugar, tobacco, cotton, and other products of the tropics not yet discovered. In fact, there are districts as large as many kingdoms of the old world which have never been explored. Even the sterile districts may be reclaimed by the aid of water, which can in most parts be obtained by boring. To develop this terra incognita the aid of Asiatic labour will be indispensable. The Australian democracies object to the Chinese because they are in the habit of drifting into the towns and working as arizans, competing with the white mechanic instead of doing the planting work for which they were introduced. But it might be possible to limit them to the northern half of the Colony, and if so, as gardeners, plantation labourers, and fishermen they would play an important part in the development of the Colony, at present in its first infancy and requiring before all things a supply of labour to open it up and render it habitable to civilized man.

The same want exists in North Queensland, and the same hostile laws prevent the planter there from utilising the supply of cheap Asiatic labour which lies so conveniently to hand. Not the least fear of its competition induces the illiterate elector, banded in with frothy demagogues and socialist journals, to bar out the helpers who would, in turn, indirectly provide work for the white man. Wherever the Chinese settle, they bring trade, as they develop wants,

and would be the means of establishing frequent intercourse with China, in which, too, they would secure markets for Australian produce. Some day, and that not very distant probably, the Australian Colonies will be brought into much closer contact with China, and may acquire a most important trade with her. This must be the case so soon as the great Transcontinental Railway is completed and through communication from Port Darwin to Adelaide established. About one-third of the line has been constructed, a commencement having been made at both ends, but the enterprise now appears to be flagging, and the section from Palmerston (Port Darwin) at present leads only into the desert. Probably the question of labour supply has been one great impediment in the way, but if the South Australian Government cared to utilise Chinese labour, as was done in the case of the Canadian Pacific Railway, they would soon get their great highway laid from the northern shores to the southern capital at a very moderate cost. The great centres of population in Australia—Adelaide, Sydney, and Melbourne—would then be brought about within fourteen days' travelling distance from Hongkong. Port Darwin could not fail to develop into an extremely important port, and the surrounding territory would speedily be taken up by planters and settlers. A labour supply would then become an urgent want, and choice would have to be made between the natives of India and those of China. The antipathy to the Chinese has been so sedulously fostered by the Trades Unions in the great towns that it is most probable resort would be had to India, for a supply of immigrants for the development of the country known as the Northern Territory; but, whether the laws against their restriction be relaxed or not, Chinese will nevertheless be sure to flock in, to the full extent allowed, to take part in the trade that will inevitably spring up. The prosperity of North Australia must depend to a great extent upon the planting industry and trade with Eastern Asia, and in spite of Anti-Chinese legislation the country must fulfil its manifest destiny. The Colonial Governments can, however, clog the wheels of its progress, and at the moment seem only too much bent upon accomplishing the task. Possibly events may occur that will produce wiser counsels, and advantage yet be taken of Chinese assistance to develop the resources of the tropical lands of the great island continent.

The United States cruiser *Baltimore* arrived at Singapore on the 10th inst. from Colombo and was to leave for Hongkong on the 13th.

We have received from A. S. Watson and Co., Limited, copies of their wall calendar and pocket almanac, both put up in the usual attractive style characteristic of this Company's souvenirs.

Mr. R. C. Leigh's yacht *White Heather*, which visited the Far East about a couple of years ago, is again on its way out via Big Cape Horn, San Francisco, and Japan, then homeward through the Canal.

We are requested to remind our readers of the annual meeting of the International Benevolent Society to be held at noon on the 21st December. It is the wish of the Committee to call attention to the work of the Society, that it may be made as public as possible, and it is hoped the general meeting will be well attended.

Complaint is being made at Shanghai of the working of the Local Post Office, and more especially with regard to the issue of the Jubilee Stamps. A correspondent writes to the *Morning Post*:—"I am in favour of very good authority that a certain person has sold 50,000 Jubilee postage stamps for which he paid \$1,000. Today I learn that sixty cents each can be obtained for these stamps." This will enable individuals to make a fair profit of \$20,000. I am also informed that these stamps will go up to as high as \$1 each very shortly, so that those persons who have bought these 50,000 stamps will make \$40,000. If this is true, there is still a chance of making a little money, without any trouble, whereas I have at the present moment a trap about from dawn to dusk on foot and think myself lucky if I make \$1 a day."

As a coal briquette factory has been established in this country from which important results are expected, a correspondent has written to us to advise that a company has been formed for the manufacture of briquettes in France and Belgium, which show that there is at least one section of the coal trade of those countries which could be turned to valuable account in England. The general quality of the coal is inferior to the best English, but the manufacture of briquettes, which is extensively used in England for household purposes, the foreign coal is said to yield most satisfactory results. Compressed coal has been exclusively used for a long time past on the Belgian mail packets, and the London and Chatham Railway Company have shipped at Calais the French briquettes since the leaving of the *Le Havre* and *Paris* to the latter.

An engineer has been appointed by the Government to enquire into the question of meteorological signals and explained his

difficulty between the members and Dr. Dickson, nothing had yet been done.

The eminent Surgeon Major has opened his International Hospital. It is situated very appropriately in the Rue du la Saute.

It is the wish of the Committee to call attention to the work of the Society, that it may be made as public as possible, and it is hoped the general meeting will be well attended.

The meeting then proceeded to discuss matters connected with the internal working of the Association, and after a long debate decided to hold a monthly meeting at which the ordinary members present should attend the meetings and regulate the conduct of ordinary business.

A complaint was made by a member as to the unfriendly attitude of the Shanghai Association to Hongkong visitors, but several present repudiated this, and the matter was not pressed. Capt. Harris remarking that even the Chinese men chose to behave like dogs; it was not necessary for them to follow the example.

A vote of thanks to the Chairman concluded the proceedings.

The new *Hoppo* of Canton arrived from the North yesterday, by the steamer *Hanpo*, and is at present staying at the Victoria Hotel.

It is stated by a Japanese *versacurier* paper that the Mito-gumi and Mito Bishi Company propose to establish a large sugar refinery in Japan, probably at Nagoya, where coal is cheap.

The Peak is not yet to be disfigured with hideous advertisement billboards. The General Managers of the Tramway have issued an order to the inventors and tenders for the advertising space which it is proposed to let, requiring the approval of the General Managers to be allowed and that no advertisements will be allowed along the line of road.

The Straits Government have ordered the Police to release from the streets of the Colony, which was recently seized owing to continual complaints, the value of \$2,200 being found on board. The quartermaster who arranged the opium has been sentenced to twelve weeks' imprisonment. The Government have released the vessel on a bond of security being provided by the owner, and the Government for the present defer their decision as to whether the vessel should be confiscated.

There will be a meeting of the Sanitary Board this afternoon. The following is the agenda:—

1.—Colonial Secretary's letter regarding flushing drains.

2.—Mortuary regulations for weeks ended the 9th and 16th December, 1893.

3.—Correspondence respecting the treason of the steamer *Gleichen* where a case of malpractice occurred.

4.—Correspondence respecting the disbanding of the steamer *Gleichen* where a case of malpractice occurred.

5.—List of prosecutions instituted by the Acting Sanitary Superintendent for the month of November.

6.—Petition from shark-fish dealers.

7.—List of convictions.

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